

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, January 10. 1712.

WE may now, I suppose, without much Witchcraft, imagin the Treaty of Peace will be enter'd upon; the *French* Plenipotentiaries are gone, the last Post tells us they are part'd by *Brussels*; our own are arriv'd, and gone directly to *Usrecht*; whether the Emperor will Nominate and Appoint any Minister or Plenipotentiary, or no, will quickly be seen, and Prince *Eugene* who is here, will, I suppose, determine that part.

At this great Approaching Affair, many Things will be Discover'd and brought to Light, which till now, have remain'd perfectly Perplexing and Mysterious; and

many Debates among us may now come to a Conclusion, that we may need no longer to abuse one another about them; for Example.

Now it shall appear, whether the Emperor has Resisted the Treaty, and stood out, merely because he took the Articles propos'd by *France* to be Preliminaries to Treat upon, and on the Foot of which the Peace was to be made, at some People vainly pretended; or whether he stands out Absolutely from a Treaty at all, because he foresees that he must part with Something, and that the Peace must be made *à l'italie* at his

his Expence, as well as the War has been made at ours.

Now it shall appear, whether the *British Court* has really made any Clandestine Negotiation, or enter'd into any Separate Treaty, as has been so openly Asserted, or whether those Assertions have been meer Forgeries and Presumptions, on purpose to serve a Turn, form a Party, and make the Ministry odious to the poor Deluded People.

Now it shall appear, whether the *British Court*, making their private Advantage of *France* by the Treaty, shall forsake the Interest of the Allies, and make a Peace upon Terms destructive to the common Safety, or no.

Now it shall appear, whether the *British Court* will give up *Spain* and the *Indies* to King *Philip*, whether the Allies will or no.

Now it shall appear, whether *France* is sincerely determin'd to make Peace, upon Just and Reasonable Satisfaction to the Allies, or that she only designs by Ambiguous Meanings, and by her *Dexterity*, to dazzle the Eyes of Us, and of the rest of the Confederates, according to the Suggestion in the *Hanover Memorial*.

A fair, open, free, and full Treaty, may put an End to all the Strife, the Virulence, and Fury of our Parties here; and if an Honourable Peace appears in View, sure the Reproaches upon those who desire it upon Unequal and Honourable Terms only, may cease, and we may converse again like Christians and Neighbours.

For my part, it is with great difficulty, that I have been persuading People but to suspend their Censures, to wait a little, and to see, whether, what they have suggested be true, or no — They allow they do but suspect it, are afraid of it, and the like; yet such is the Furious Spirit, such is the Warmth of Men's Tempers at this Time, that there is no speaking to them, no Arguing, no Resisting them; 'tis like my Lord *Haverham's* Thumb, to the Tide at *GraveSEND*; to attempt it, is talking to the

Wind; but now the Time is at Hand, and we must see the Truth of Things quickly, by the Event.

We are told that great Proposals are made on behalf of his Imperial Majesty, to the *British Court*, as well of great Additional Forces to carry on the War, as of a great part of the *Spanish America* to be put into our Hands, in case a Peace be made on a Concession of the *Spanish Monarchy* to him — As to the first, whatever it be, the Confederates may look back with Regret, and say, had your Imperial Majesty's Predecessor done this but 6 Year ago, you had had it all in your Possession long ago — And whether it be too late, or no, now, I will not Undertake to enquire — As to the latter about *America*, were I certain his Imperial Majesty has offer'd such a Thing, I should say more to it — That it is but a Reasonable Offer, any one may prove; that it is just to the Share we have born in the War, and that it is the best Security we can desire for the Peace, as it will assist to make us strong enough to keep our own Peace; but of this by itself.

Yet the Emperor's Officers of Additional Troops, has its Uses also on this Solemn Occasion, which I cannot slip over without some notice, and which I purposely have reserv'd for this Place.

One of the Reasons why I cannot be afraid of the Terrible Ideas some People have form'd to themselves, that this Treaty shall Issue in a betraying us to *France*, is this; I do not see the Advantage any Ministry can propose by Concessions to *France*, when they may have Peace without them; let us state the Case a little, as clearly as we can.

The *French* have made great Means to the *English Court* to obtain this Treaty — It is evident they had try'd every Art, turn'd every Stone, sounded every Ally, and every Neutral Prince, and found it impossible, without the meanest Submissions imaginable, to come at a Treaty, he has at last prevail'd, by his Concessions to our Court, and by the Consequence of a new Situation on the Face of the Empire, by
the

the Conjunction of the Imperial and Spanish Crown in one Person — Or let it be by what Methods else you please, it is not Material as to this Question.

I believe, (and no Man will say I am Arrogant in it, the difficulty the King of France has had to obtain a Treaty, proves it —) That the King of France will not let the Occasion of this Treaty slip without a Peace, whatever that Peace cost him.

The Consequence of this, gives us many happy Prospects of this Treaty, if God had granted us the Grace of Understanding one another a little, and of joining together to carry it on with such a Concert, as might convince the French King, that he must think of a close Application to the Peace, and of making sufficient Offers, so as that all the Allies may receive due Satisfaction and Security in the Peace; for this Reason, I think he is the best Friend to the Confederacy, who in a Treaty moves the Allies to stand fast to one another in their Demands; first making those Demands Reasonable and Equitable, both respecting the Peace itself, and respecting one another; for to make Extravagant Demands, such as not the Enemy only, but even one another, cannot consent to; this is the same Thing as to refuse to Treat.

The first Thing, I think, the Confederate Plenipotentiaries seem therefore to have before them, is to settle a compleat Harmony and Concert among themselves, that they may exactly Agree in what they are to Demand, and may Unanimously Insist upon those Demands one for another; and if they do this, there is no doubt but they may have from the French, all they can have Reason to ask; for he will never break up the present Treaty, if almost any Thing will Satisfie us.

Here I ground the Necessity of a strict Union and Confederacy with the Dutch, and he that would go about to lessen the entire Union and mutual Confidence between Great Britain and the States of Holland, as far as in him lies, shews himself an Enemy to both, and a Friend to France: On the mutual Confidence and Agreement of the

Confederates in this Treaty, depends the Success of the Treaty, and depends very much the Advantage of the Term.

How can we obtain good Conditions, when we shall Envy one another our Demands? When any Confederate shall be rather forward to give from, than to give to his Neighbour; How shall we make a Good Peace, if any Confederate insists upon more to be given to him, than is consistent with the Safety or Interest of any other Confederate to have granted? He is an Enemy to the Alliance, who would be for Refusing a sufficient Barrier to the Dutch; he is an Enemy to the Dutch, who would be for giving them larger Extended Dominions, than consists with the Peace and Neighbourhood of the Powers next them, and which perhaps they themselves do not desire: He would be an Enemy to the Confederacy, who should suggest, That the Dutch would Dispute our obtaining Possessions in America, and a just Recompense for our Losses in Trade, by such Increase of Trade, as may make us formidable to the French: A perfect Union between the whole Confederacy, is their only Step to obtain a Good Peace; and a perfect Union, Offensive and Defensive, between Us and the Dutch, is the Security of that Peace when it is obtain'd.

I know the Temper of those who are for War, prompts them to magnify the Advantages before us, and push France by our Forces, and tell us we are sure of obtaining all we wish for that Way; but while I am persuading to a United pressing your Demands in a Treaty, does this persuade you not to push on the War? No, by no means, and the King of France seeing you first United in your Demands, and then ready with United Forces, to push him by the War, will the more infallibly submit to all you desire; and if this be not Satisfying, I am at a Loss to know what will; for those that seek to get by a War, what they may obtain by a Peace, must have some farther Designs in View than they discover, or else will give us Cause to think, they love the War for the sake of it; as for the Assuran-

ces of Success; I shall only give them a Saying of *Cicero*, quoted by *Francis* the 1st. King of *France*, after the Loss of the Battle of *Pavia*, when having Assurance of Success, as he thought, he refused very

good Conditions offer'd him by the Emperor, and was immediately beaten and taken Prisoner.

Melior est tuta Pax quam sperata Victoria.

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